

REMARKS

Allowed Claims 40-55 and 27

Applicant notes with appreciation that claims 40-55 and 27 are allowed; as such, these claims are not discussed further herein.

Canceled Claims 1, 7, 11, 16, 21, and 26

Claims 1, 7, 11, 16, 21, and 26 have been canceled, rendering further discussion thereof moot.

Allowable Claims 8, 10, 17, and 20

Applicant notes with appreciation that claims 8, 10, 17, and 20 are indicated as being directed to allowable subject matter. Claims 8 and 17 have been amended to be in independent form, including all the limitations of their respective base claims and any intervening claims. Further, claims 10 and 20 have been amended to depend from claims 8 and 17 respectively, and to remove redundant language from the claims. No new matter has been introduced. As such, Applicant submits that claims 1, 10, 17 and 20 are in condition for allowance.

Claims 2-6, 12, 14-15, 18-19, 22-25, 28-30, and 56

The dependency of claims 2-6, 12, 14-15, 18-19, 22-25, 28-30, and 56 have been changed to that these claims all depend directly or indirectly from claims 8, 17, or 27, which are directed to subject matter indicated as being allowed/allowable. In addition, claim 22 has been amended to correct a typographical error. No new matter

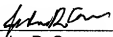
has been introduced. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 2-6, 12, 14-15, 18-19, 22-25, 28-30, and 56 are in condition for allowance.

Applicant respectfully reminds that Examiner that **claim 56** is part of the present application because the earlier Action Summary pages have not indicated the status of claim 56.

In view of the above, Applicant submits that all presently pending claims are in condition for allowance, and notice of the same is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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